

SECRET

OXC-3544  
Copy 6 of 8

28 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with General Flickinger Regarding Problem with  
Air Force Surgeon General re Lovelace Clinic

25X1A 1. This will record the fact that following an extended conversation with General Flickinger 25 May, I orally briefed [ ] on the fairly complex situation that confronts us in connection with the subject.

25X1A 2. The net of my conversation with Flickinger was that after a conversation of his with General Richard L. Bohannon, Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force, it is fairly clear that both General Neise, the Air Force Surgeon General, and General Bohannon was aware that CIA has now, and had, a contract with Lovelace Clinic to do physical examinations on Air Force officers. While it is true that this information came into the public domain at the time of the Powers' trial when Lovelace was surfaced as "a clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, more recent use of the clinic by the Agency through General Flickinger's good offices must be considered sensitive information. Now the Surgeon General and his Deputy came into possession of this information is unclear. The case that touched off the trouble, however, was a chap named [ ] whom we had considered for OXCART and rejected. The real difficulty lies in the fact that Flickinger had advised the OXCART candidates in good faith that any findings encountered in the Lovelace Clinic in special stress testing would not be detrimental to the man's Air Force career if they were negative findings.

3. As it now stands, General Bohannon reportedly told General Flickinger that the Surgeon General, having been caught off base in the NASA-Air Force struggle over Astronaut Donald Slaton, had already called Dr. Lovelace and informally subpoenaed all of Lovelace's records on Air Force officers tested by him regardless of sponsor, and Lovelace had reportedly agreed to this move. General Bohannon said that if these Lovelace records disclosed disqualifying diagnoses, the Surgeon General would take steps to inform the School of Aviation Medicine that any such disqualification would be binding on the Air Force as well and that the subject officer would be contacted immediately with resultant loss of flight pay\*. This could be a very nasty situation in the course of which a lot of sensitive information could be spilled.

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ACTION

USAF review(s)  
completed.

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4. Flickinger was going to do the following things: (a) Call Lovelace and advise him at my suggestion that he was not to surrender to the Surgeon General any records generated by his contract with us, and (b) confer further with General Bohannon to see if the whole matter could be tabled until General Neise's return from Edwards, date not specified. I believe it may be necessary to brief General Neise on OXCART, as well as Flickinger's particular relationship to the pilot selection business in order to forestall precipitous and perhaps dangerous action on his part.

  
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief, DPD

25X1A

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DPD:JACunningham, Jr./mg